

# CROP REPORT



**November 12, 2004**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

1220 SW 3rd Ave., Room 1735  
Portland, OR 97204  
503-326-2131 or 1-800-338-2157  
FAX: 326-2549 or 1-800-731-7011

## Potato production down nearly 6 percent

Oregon's 2004 fall potato production is forecast at 19.8 million cwt, nearly 6 percent below the 2003 crop production, according to the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service. The 2004 yield is forecast at 534 cwt per acre, up 41 cwt from last year. Potato planted acreage decreased by almost 14 percent to 37,000 acres, the smallest total since 1964. Harvested acres is also forecast at 37,000 acres. Malheur County expects 5,200 acres harvested, with a record yield of 470 cwt per acre. For other counties in Oregon, harvested acreage is forecast at 31,800, with an expected yield of 545 cwt per acre. This yield would be up 40 cwt from last year and the largest since 2000.

Nationally, production of fall potatoes for 2004 is forecast at 408 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year for comparable States. South Dakota and Utah were dropped from the program starting in 2004. Area harvested, at 1.02 million acres, is virtually unchanged from the July estimate but 6 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 398 cwt per acre, 22 cwt above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield, 6 cwt above the previous record set in 2000. Western States production is forecast at 281 million cwt, up 3 percent from last year for comparable States. Acreage harvested, at 642,200 acres, decreased 3 percent from last year, but the average yield of 437 cwt per acre is up 23 cwt from 2003. Record high yields in Idaho increased production 7 percent from the previous year. Favorable growing conditions during the season contributed to the good size and quality of the tubers. Production in Washington went up 1 percent from last year. Colorado's production decreased 2 percent as more acres were abandoned due to higher disease rates and water management issues. California's production is up 10 percent from last year. Good growing conditions increased yields 85 cwt from 2003 to 510 cwt per acre, more than offsetting the decrease in acres. Growers in Montana expect a 5 percent increase in production, while Nevada's production is expected to decrease 13 percent. New Mexico production is expected to be unchanged.

## Sugarbeet production up 18 percent

Sugarbeet production in Oregon is forecast at 354,000 tons, nearly an 18 percent increase over the 2003 crop production. Yields for Oregon sugarbeets are expected to be 28.3 tons per acre, a decrease of 8 percent from last year. Harvested acreage is forecast at 12,500 acres; this would reflect an increase of nearly 28 percent from the 2003 crop.

### Crop summary: Acres harvested, yield, production, Oregon and United States, 2003-2004

Crop	Oregon						United States					
	Harvested		Yield		Production		Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Acres				1,000 Units		1,000 Acres				1,000 Units	
Fall Potatoes (Cwt.)	42.6	37.0	493	534	20,991	19,775	1,090.9	1,024.5	376	398	410,588	407,786
Sugarbeets (Tons)	9.8	12.5	30.7	28.3	301	354	1,347.9	1,326.0	22.7	22.4	30,583	29,765

For more information on all potatoes, please call Janice Goodwin or see <http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>.